

reasonable rates in return for the franchises the public has given them without charge.

I have made mistakes. I have committed errors, but God knows I have never done a dishonorable act. The charge that I have done so, made by corporation agents, has surprised the public only less than it has myself.

The masses are shrewd observers and are generally accurate in penetrating the true character and motives of their public servants. In conclusion I will give out of the many letters I have received, the following from a mountain-
 eer who lives among the coves in Yancey. He may be illiterate, but he has hard mountain common sense. He writes:

"Judge Clark; I have heern tell of you but never seen you. Mr. Wilson sent me one of his pamphlets about you and I red it. If all he and them other railrode fellers ses about you was so, I ses the railroades would have had you fur ther man long ago, sure pop, so I ses its all a string of lies.

"Yours till death."

My fate is in the hands of the people. I have served them faithfully in peace and in war to the best of my humble ability. Should they decide to retain me in their service or not is for them to decide. Whatever their decision I shall bow to the will of the sovereign people. This is their government and I wish that they and they alone shall determine public policy and the selection of their public servants. I have said this much in the defence of my personal and official integrity and henceforth shall leave the matter to those who must make the decision—the people of North Carolina.

And now, my comrade, in the language of my Yancey county friend, believe me, most truly,

"Yours till death,"

WALTER CLARK.